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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER OCI #0990/72
17 Oct. 1972

State Dept. review completed

Romanians Spell Out Views on a CSCE

The results of a full day of consultations in Washington on 11 October between Romanian First Deputy Foreign Minister Macovescu and State Department officials have just been reported. Macovescu argued that the useful life of existing pacts (read NATO and Warsaw) is drawing to an end and now is a propitious time to set up a new security system in Europe. Throughout the talks, however, Macovescu stressed that the new system must involve mutual commitments which would be undertaken over a period of time. Indeed, he implied that the important thing is for a CSCE to being its work and to move along an "ascending spiral of difficulty," reaching agreement first on the relatively easy issues and progressing toward resolution of the more complex. A second point, which he stressed, is that each state should be protected against the use or threat of force through clear agreements and juridical commitments.

The Romanians view the CSCE as a first step in a long process. Macovescu noted that it is extremely important that the first conference succeed and be followed by a series of conferences. Thus, bloc-to-bloc negotiations should give way to a "round table of equals." With respect to the ministerial preliminary talks (MPT), which are slated to open on 22 November in Helsinki, he said that these talks should address the CSCE date, site, format, and agenda. Macovescu also said that although working groups might be useful, they should not be allowed to create undue delays.

In discussing a CSCE agenda, he said that his government's position is flexible. He, nonetheless, expressed Bucharest's preference for a treaty formulating principles for relations between states. These must apply to all states "regardless of ideological philosophy or military strength." Macovescu added that the Romanians prefer a treaty because they want the strongest possible juridical base which he noted, is very important for "small states."

In discussing MBFR and the military aspects of security, Macovescu claimed that there have been exchanges of views but no official Warsaw Pact discussions on these matters. He stressed that Romania wished to follow closely what took place in MBFR discussions, and would assuredly wish to participate if there was to be any discussion involving Romanian forces.

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Of particular interest was Macovescu's remark that Romania is prepared to sign today agreements on advance notification of military movements and maneuvers and exchange of observers.

On the question of freer movement of peoples, the Romanians regard this topic as included in the Warsaw Pact item on cooperation, which was issued in January after a meeting in Prague of the Pact's Political Consultative Committee. He stated that Bucharest favored the widest possible exchanges of "ideas serving mankind," but he noted that it would be counterproductive if freer movement is used as a means of undermining social systems.

Macovescu seemed to back off somewhat with respect to the 25X1 need for permanent machinery within the context of a CSCE. Thus, he did not call for the establishment of a permanent secretariat, but he left the door open with respect to what machinery might be necessary as the talks progressed.

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Hungarian View of European Scene

During an informal talk with a US Embassy officer, Hungarian foreign ministry division chief Varkonyi reaffirmed Budapest's intention to forestall the establishment of diplomatic ties with Bonn until the inter-German talks and the FRG-Czech question are resolved. According to Varkonyi, who is responsible for relations with the UK, Canada, US and the FRG, Budapest can afford to sit this one out awhile longer because it is already reaping the main harvest of benefits which formal diplomatic ties could provide. Bonn, which was looking for movement in the Hungarian position during mid-summer, had been touting the exact opposite line to make its case for immediate diplomatic ties with Budapest. Varkonyi confirmed Budapest's interest in seeking Brandt reelected, claimed that too much favoritism from the East would be a "kiss of death," and asserted that Hungary had "serious limitations" in what it could do to aid Brandt.

On European security (CSCE), newly-appointed Deputy Foreign Minister Robert Garai stressed that Hungary does not want to get out in front of the other socialist countries. Looking at the specifics of CSCE, Garai claimed that Budapest is "interested in" a general statement of principles governing European security, the creation of a permanent body to deal with CSCE matters, and would welcome increased economic, scientific, and other exchanges which would come out of the conference. Garai dodged the freer movement issue. Reminded of First Deputy Foreign Minister Puja's recent black-is-white statements on freer movement--wherein he argued that the East was ahead of the West in promoting freer

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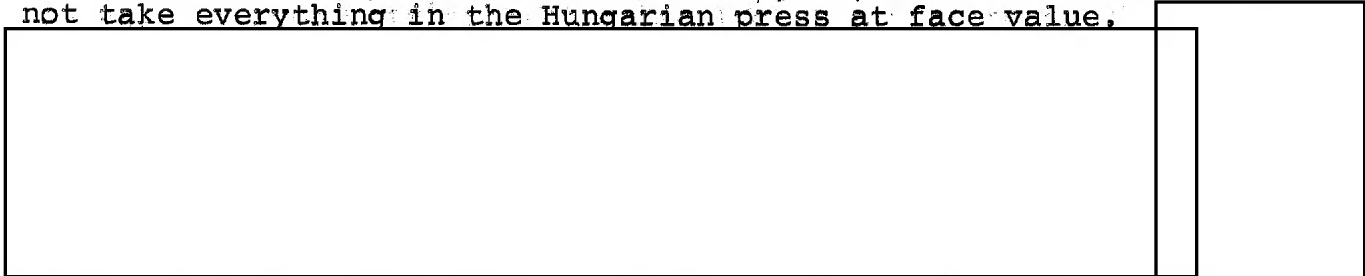
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movement--Garai replied with a wolfish grin, that the West should not take everything in the Hungarian press at face value.

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